

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 986

By Turner J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the pastor and members of Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of their 110th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the church's 110 years of service to the Lord and the community this year; and

WHEREAS, the church was organized in 1902 by the Reverend C. H. Hayes in a small double tenant house on St. Paul Street in Memphis, and under the leadership of Rev. Hayes, the church was given the name "Mount Vernon," at which time worship services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall of the Union Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the church moved two more times in its infancy and its members were fortunate to have Rev. Hayes serve as pastor for ten years; and

WHEREAS, several ministers pastored Mount Vernon between 1902 and 1956 and, in 1956, the church was found once again without a pastor; that October, the Reverend James L. Netters, a young man with unique spiritual qualities, was invited to conduct the service for the church family, and he has served the church faithfully ever since; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1976, the Reverend Chester Berryhill, Jr., served as the Assistant Pastor, and another Assistant Pastor was not named until April 1990, when the Reverend Roger R. Brown was installed, who served for five years in that position; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Reginald L. Porter, Sr., came to the church in July 1998 and served for one year as the Executive Assistant Pastor, and in January 2006, the Reverend Melvin Watkins was appointed as Assistant Pastor, and he was installed as Co-Pastor on March 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, after sixteen years at its location on Mississippi Boulevard, the growth of the church family necessitated a larger building, and in 1973, Rev. Netters brought the congregation to 620 Parkrose Avenue, in the Westwood Community, with approximately 300 members; and

WHEREAS, since then, the congregation has grown from 300 to more than 3,000 members, and the church erected a new sanctuary in 1994 that is designed to seat 3,500 people; and

WHEREAS, in addition to holding regularly scheduled worship services, Children's Church, and Sunday School, the church maintains numerous ministries, which are directed by church leaders and/or qualified church members; and

WHEREAS, for 110 years, the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Memphis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the pastor and members of Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 110th anniversary and offer our sincerest wishes for every continued success as an uplifting beacon of the Lord's good will.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.